

Extracts.

TO THE FRINGED GENTIAN.
 To blossom bright with autumn dew,
 And colored with the Heaven's own blue,
 That open when the quiet light
 Succeeds the keen and tranquil night—
 Thou comest not when violets leave,
 Or tenderer brooks and springs unseen,
 Or columbines in purple bloom,
 Not o'er the ground birds' hidden nest.
 Thou waitest late, and comest alone,
 When woods are bare and birds are flown,
 And frosts and shortening days portend
 The aged year is near its end.
 Thou dost thy sweet and quiet eye
 Look through its fringes to the sky,
 Blue—blue—as if that sky lay fall
 A flower from its celestial wall.
 I would that thou, when I shall see
 The hour of death draw near to me,
 Hope, blossoming with my last breath,
 May look to Heaven as I depart.
 WILLIAM COLLIER BRYANT.

CUBAN EPIQUETTE OF SMOKING.
 A singular etiquette is observed all over Cuba with respect to smoking, which a rough Britisher does not always appreciate. An utter stranger is at liberty to stop you in the middle of the street to beg the favour of your "cigars," or light from your cigar. If you are polite, you will immediately hand him your pipe, with the ashes carefully shaken off, and the lighted end conveniently pointed in his direction. Part of your fire having been successfully transferred to his cigar, the stranger is bound to return your property, presenting it, by a dexterous turn of the wrist, with the mouth end towards you, an operation which is accomplished with such ease as to express deep obligation. If, after this, you are inclined to abandon your cigar for a fresh one, you may not do so in the stranger's presence, but wait till he has disappeared. There is a sort of sucking freemasonry, too, between Cubans all over the world. A Cuban recognises a compatriot anywhere, by the manner in which he smokes his cigar, holds it, and offers or accepts a light. From "The Pearl of the Antilles."

HOW IT AFFECTED HIM.
 The New York correspondent of the Toledo Blade had a narrow escape. He was, so to speak, "in the pan." It came within a hair's breadth of getting into him. He says: "I had a terrible experience. One morning, rather late than usual, I took the morning paper before I dressed. The list of failures of banks frightened me. Dressing hastily, I rushed frantically to the street, and throwing myself into a cab directed the driver to drive furiously like the driving of Jehu, the son of Nimsi, to my office. Suppose my taxicab driver, who I have since learned, for sitting up the night, had been instead of retiring at ten, as is my custom, 'Drive,' I exclaimed. The driver drove. Minutes were dollars to me. To get the money out was now the point. The office reached, I hurriedly directed the book-keeper to figure up the account, and draw a check for the entire amount. 'I will sign it,' I said, 'and then you go immediately, as fast as your attenuated legs will carry you, and draw it. Get it in under five minutes. I will carry it on my person. I dislike to do it, but self-preservation is the first law. Make haste.' How slow he seemed! How I chafed under the terrible delay! The movement of his pencil! Finally he finished. Then raising his head, he gently sighed: 'Our account is overdrawn just exactly \$16.93.' Then came over my agitated soul a sweet and belated calm. Then did I sink back into a state of absolute repose, and I looked out upon the morning street with a feeling of indifference that was lovely to behold. It is an advantage to have nothing. Blessed are the souls that consider it my duty to go to the president of the bank and assure him of my undiminished confidence in the solvency of the institution, and to say also that in case of a run, I would not join in it. This seemed to give him new courage."

A MOORISH CAFE AT ALGIERS.
 To obtain a good view of a Moorish cafe at Algiers in the daytime, four o'clock is the best hour to visit it. The sun is then shining rapidly towards the sea, and the day will soon be on the wane. The intense heat which has kept people indoors or sunbathing about the arcades and bazars since an hour before noon, has been succeeded by a deliciously cool atmosphere, which is rendered even more agreeable by the wind from the roads. Business is at an end. What were a few minutes ago comparatively deserted streets are now crowded with pedestrians and vehicles; you might almost think that the entire population of Algiers was out of doors, so thronged are its principal thoroughfares. Almost every one looks clean. Europeans have laid aside their hats and shirts, and in their place have donned the evening dress, even in the height of summer, are invariably chilly—were hurrying to the bathing establishments beside the sea, or to the cafes overlooking the port. The Moors stroll through the streets in fine white linen breeches, with white woollen trousers hanging from their shoulders; and even many of the Arabs present a more cleanly appearance than at any other time in the day. Ascending the steep hill in the direction of the Kasbah, any of the streets will lead us to a native cafe, which at a distance looks like the entrance to a passage conducting to a yard. On one side of the doorway is a richly tabled supporting a vase or two of flowers, and a glass globe filled with gold fish, and a long string of orange blossoms or jasmine, which are threaded by the Moorish women for the purpose of adorning their hair. Several customers are seated on mats outside—some surrounding an aged man, perhaps a Marabout, who sits cross-legged smoking his pipe, and from time to time makes an observation, to which his auditors appear to listen with the greatest respect. Others, with their backs against the wall and their knees near their chests, contemplate a group lounging in various attitudes round a draught board, which differs from ours inasmuch as the squares are mixed, and instead of being black and white, the draughts have the form of towers and pavans of the game of chess. Picking our way through the little crowd outside, we enter a long room, and are struck by the contrast between the light and the French café, but not so much on account of the simplicity of the interior as from the kind of life which is passed through the doorway no jingle of dominoes, no sound of billiard balls striking together, no clinking of glasses, no hubbub of voices, no triumphant cries of the man with a good hand at piquet greets the ear. There are no waiters in clean white aprons and short black jackets, moving with extraordinary nimbleness and rapidly among small round tables, no dame de comptoir seated behind a rosewood tribune, but in lieu of these quaintness and peacefulness reign over everything. At the end of the room the *Kalawadi*, or master, who is generally a Moor or a Koultouli, is standing before his stove, whose water is always in the bubble and office continually simmering. At the water-balls he places fire or six teaspoonfuls of coffee into a tin pot containing about two tumblers of water, and carefully removes the scum as it rises to the top; after allowing it to simmer for a few seconds he pours the coffee several times from one pot to another, restraining each time an American preparing a brandy-cognac, and finally supplies into small cups—sometimes filling into metal

stands resembling egg-cups, but more frequently being ordinary European coffee cups—which the thief or waiter hands round to the customers.—*Continued from Magazine.*

THE TIBER.

How many memories rise up in the mind as we look at it, and think of the splendid triumphs it has witnessed and of the dark shadows that loomed over the heroic Hercules to wash the Libyan hoofs after having slain the monster Geryon. It saw Julius pass to deeds of valor and glory when the suffocating morning rose in the sky and the well-wooded banks were vocal with the songs of many birds. Either the frenzied barbarians used to rush at dead of night with frantic cries and wild plunging ravens with floating hair—plunging into the unquenchable flames that tore and consumed them. Here the sick and abandoned children were left to perish unheeded, the miserable victims of cruelty and superstition. Borne upon its tawny bosom the consul, Brutus, entered Rome in a royal galley of sixteen tiers of oars, proud in the gorgeous apollon of the conquered Macedonia, when the whole city flowed out to meet him. Its bed received the body of the flagrant and scandalous emperor Helio-gabalus, drunk with crime and lousness through every vice, after he had been smothered by a mad passion and dragged along the streets of Rome with shouts of ferocious joy. It was into its waters that ashes of the noble champion of freedom and truth, Arnold of Brescia, were cast, one more victim to the cause of unrepentant philosophy and liberty. By the Tiber Pope Gregory the Eleventh returned to Rome, together with the fanatical priests of the papal court, in all the splendour of ecclesiastical pomp, after the seventy-two years' exile of the papacy at Avignon in Provence, landing at St. Paul's amidst the acclamations of vast crowds, whence he was escorted triumphantly into the city. These and a thousand other memories seem to be written on its turbid ripples as they flow down to the sea, bearing everything into oblivion, and veiling the dark secrets of which it has been the unwearied witness through the long course of unnumbered centuries.—From "The Pilgrimage of the Tiber."

A PRINCE'S AMUSEMENT.
 "That the immense losses which the Prince of Wales sustained at the gaming table were not always the consequence of a run of ill-luck may be conjectured. Scheme after scheme was devised by him as a heavy drain was to be made upon his finances; and he became eventually the dupe of a set of titled sharpers, who fattened upon his credulity, and by the most deliberate villainy reduced the Prince to the position of a pauper. As a proof of the inveterate habits of the Prince's associates, we need only name the connected wagers between turkeys and geese. During a convivial party at Carlton House, George Enanger designedly mooted the travelling abilities of the turkey and geese, and declared that it was his opinion (though the reverse of the fact) that the former would outstrip the latter, and offered to back his notion by a bet. Of course, there were others prepared to expose the cause of the geese, which resulted in the Prince of Wales making a match for a distance of ten miles between twenty turkeys and twenty geese, for the sum of £50. The turkey party laid 2 to 1 in thousands upon their pet bird, and relying upon the sagacity of the geese, they declared against the geese. Two of the finest birds of each kind were selected, and on the day appointed both parties assembled in strong force to witness the match. For the first three hours everything seemed favorable to the turkeys, who kept three times ahead, but the natural propensities of the turkey party began to stretch out their necks towards the branches of the trees and hedges which lined the road. In vain the Prince attempted to urge them onwards with his pole, to which a bit of scarlet cloth was attached; no sooner had he and his friends dislodged one batch from their roosting places than others were comfortably perched upon the branches of trees, and were hardly down on the road—no art, no stratagem, no compulsion, could prevent them taking to their heels, while in the meantime, the geese came waddling along, and shortly out-distanced the turkey party, who were busy in the hedges trying to dislodge the obstinate birds, which was found an impossibility, and the game was declared a winner."—From "Zuch's Memoirs of George IV."

Insurances.

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
 Agents in Hongkong, 1st October, 1873.
 3rd 1618 Hongkong, 1st October, 1873.

SATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
 Agents in Hongkong for the above-named Company, are prepared to grant Policies against Sea Risks at current rates.
 1022 Hongkong, 1st April, 1873.

POSITIVE GOVERNMENT SECURITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
 CHAS. H. MORGAN, Agent.
 1966 Hongkong, 18th June, 1873.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
 Agents, Royal Insurance Company, 1617 Hongkong, 1st October, 1873.

TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.
 Agents in Hongkong, 18th November, 1873.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
 Agents, 39 Hongkong, 18th November, 1873.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.
 Agents at all the Treaty Ports of China, Japan, and at Singapore, Saigon and Peking.
 Risks accepted, and Policies of Insurance granted at the rates of Premium current at the above-named Ports, and on a basis of 20 per cent.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
 Agents, 39 Hongkong, 18th November, 1873.

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QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.
 FROM and after this date, and until further notice, a Discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon current rates of Premium, will be returned on Insurances against fire, effected with this Office.
 EDWARD NORTON & Co., Agents.
 1174 Hongkong, 25th June, 1873.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
 Agents in Hongkong, 18th November, 1873.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.
 Agents in Hongkong, 18th November, 1873.

THE UNDERWRITING ASSURANCE COMPANY.
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